



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 018880.0120

#6

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

J. Donald HILL et al.

Serial No.: 09/987,976

Filed: November 16, 2001

For: AUTOMATIC SUTURE FIXATION
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
MINIMALLY INVASIVE CARDIAC
SURGERY

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: 3738

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified) for consideration and to be made of record by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in the above-captioned patent application.

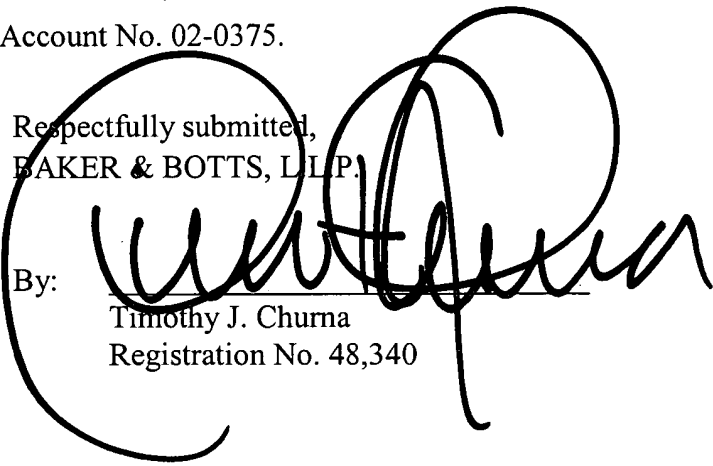
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these references and that the Examiner indicate that the enclosed references have been considered in this application by returning a copy of the form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609.

The attached documents were cited by the European Patent Office in an International Search Report mailed July 29, 2002, in a corresponding application, and their relevance is indicated on the enclosed copy of the Search Report.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), Applicants believe that this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fees are believed due as a result of this submission. However, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the PTO, please charge any such variance to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER & BOTTS, LLP.

By:


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Dated: November 25, 2002

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